(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas, the minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

AWACS development project

58. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to use Israeli expertise and collaborate with that country in the indigenous Air-borne Warning and Control System (AWACS) development project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether India's indigenous AWACS programme stands as scheduled to fly the system by the end of 1997 and whether its Rotodome integrity was tested for 100 hours including other important technologies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b): There is at present no approved project for development of an indigenous AWACS. However, the Air Force feel the need for such an aircaft and are looking at possible options.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) & (b) above. However, certain R&D activities are being pursued for competence build-up in the area of generic technologies towards airborne surveillance.

कांडला पत्तन से माल ढुलाई का लक्ष्य

59. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 और 1995-96 के दौरान कांडला मुक्त व्यापार पत्तन से माल ढुलाई के लिए क्या लक्ष्य रखा गया था;

(ख) चालू वर्ष की प्रथम छमाही में इस लक्ष्य का कितने प्रतिशत भाग प्राप्त कर लिया गया है;

(ग) इसके लिए कुल कितने संसाधनों की मांग की गई है; और

(घ) इस मांग की तुलना में सरकार द्वारा कांडला मुक्त व्यापार पत्तन को कितनी धनराशि उपलब्ध कराई गई है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी. जी. वेंकटरामन): (क) कांडला पत्तन मुक्त व्यापार पत्तन नहीं है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Loan to States under accelerated irrigation benefit scheme

60. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be loaned to ihe States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Scheme during the current year; and

(b) the project which are proposed to be completed during this year?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The Central Loan Assistance (CLA) approved for the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Maharashtra under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme for the year 1996-97 is as under:—

S No.	Name of the State	Amount of Central Loan Assistance (Rs. in crores)
I.	Uttar Pradesh	67.00
2.	Haryana	45.00
3.	Maharashtra	20.00

(b) Gurgaon Canal Project of Haryana and Gunta Nalla Project of Uttar Pradesh included under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme are scheduled for completion during the year 1996-97.

Enhancement of safety requirements on National Highway No. 5 in Andhra Pradesh

61. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations to enhance safety requirements on the National Highway No. 5 in Andhra Pradesh in the Eluru-Tadepallibudem Sector in West Godavari district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G.VENKATRAM AN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government have received representations from Dr. P. Pullarao requesting for setting up of rest area and for taking steps to enhance road safety in the Eluru — Tadepalligudem Sector which inter-alia included the provision of an ambulance.

(c) and (d) A report on the suggestion to set up rest area and the road safety situation in this sector of National Highway No. 5 detailing deficiencies, if any, as also possible remedial measures has been called for from the Andhra Pradesh Government.

As regards provision of ambulance, a proposal to give financial assistance for purchase of one crane and ambulance under the National Highway Patrolling Scheme to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year is under process. Ambulance and crane are not provided on individual request.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग नं॰ 8-बी पर पुलों का निर्माण

62. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी॰ सोलंकी:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) गुजरात के वड़ोदरा, पंचमहल, सूरत और भरुच जिलों में मुख्य नदी पर से गुजरने वाले राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग नं॰ 8-बी पर पुल निर्माण संबंधी प्रस्तावों का ब्यौरा क्या है और ये प्रस्ताव कब से लंबित हैं;

(ख) इन प्रस्तावों को अब तक स्वीकृति न दिए जाने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) इस प्रस्तावों को कब तक स्वीकृती दिए जाने की संभावता है; और

(घ) क्या इनके लिए आवश्यक आवंटन किया जाएगा?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी॰ जी॰ वेंकटरामन): (क) से (घ) राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग संख्या 8-ख जो गुजरात राज्य में बामनवोरे से पोरबंदर तक जाता है, प्रसंगवश राज्य के वदोदरा, पंचमहल, सूरत और भरुच जिलों से नहीं गुजरता है। अत: राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग संख्या 8-ख के लिए इन जिलों की मुख्य नदियों पर पुलों के निर्माण के किसी प्रस्ताव का प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Shortage of staff in departmental canteens of Telecom

63. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication are following the guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel in respect of number of staff required to man the departmental canteens;

(b) if no, the shortfall in the staff strength in the departmental canteens in the Telecom side;

(c) the steps taken to cover the short fall;

(d) whether Department of Telecommunication have been taken steps to absorb the casual labour who have put in number of years service, in the vacant posts in the departmental canteens; and

(e) if not, whether the Department have taken steps to extend the wages to casual workers of departmental canteens on par with their counterparts in Department?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pending passport applications in Andhra Pradesh

64. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of passport applications pending in Andhra Pradesh as on date;

(b) the reason for this backlog; and

(c) by when this backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The backlog of passport application, i.e. applications pending for over one month, in Andhra Pradesh as on 13.11.1996 was 20,501.

(b) The backlog arose mainly due to a spurt in the number of applications received in September & October 1996. As against 26,451